PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Claims

2. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the first set of handshake signals corresponding to the data out bus comprise:

a request signal sent from the system side block to the network side block that is used to request a transfer of data to the network side block;

a transfer ready signal from the network side block to the system side block that is asserted by the network side block to inform the system side block that the network side block is ready to receive data; and

a hold signal issued sent from the system side block to the network side block that may be asserted to control a timing of the transfer of data.

3. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the second set of handshake signals corresponding to the out message bus comprise:

a message request signal from the network side block to the system side block that is used to request a transfer of the message data from the network side block to the system side block; and

a message transfer ready signal asserted by the system side block to inform the network side block that the message data may be received by the system side block.

4. The MAC bus interface of claim 1, wherein the third set of handshake signals corresponding to the data in bus comprise: